

**From:** [Opalski, Dan](#)  
**To:** [Hough, Palmer](#); [McGrath, Patricia](#); [Grandinetti, Cami](#); [Jensen, Amy A.](#); [LaCroix, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?  
**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:22:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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Consistent with Matt's comment on the call yesterday, when I talked to Sheila on July 24, she did not indicate a move away from the conclusions of our 404 coordination meetings *as they relate to 404 permitting* and the significant challenges for the applicant to come up with acceptable mitigation. My understanding is that the District spent a fair bit of time, including in internal and congressional briefings leading up to that day and in responses to inquiries, clarifying that an EIS is not the same as a permit decision and that people would be well advised not to pre-judge the permit outcome, because there are elements of the permit decision that are not explicitly part of the EIS.

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**From:** Hough, Palmer <[Hough.Palmer@epa.gov](mailto:Hough.Palmer@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:05 AM  
**To:** McGrath, Patricia <[mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov)>; Opalski, Dan <[Opalski.Dan@epa.gov](mailto:Opalski.Dan@epa.gov)>; Grandinetti, Cami <[Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov](mailto:Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov)>; Jensen, Amy A. <[jensen.amy@epa.gov](mailto:jensen.amy@epa.gov)>; LaCroix, Matthew <[LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?

Well the Corps, EPA, and FWS were in "lockstep" when we completed our 12-weeks of intensive 404 coordination meetings on May 28 that based on the FEIS the project is not permittable. Has that changed?

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**From:** McGrath, Patricia <[mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2020 10:58 AM  
**To:** Opalski, Dan <[Opalski.Dan@epa.gov](mailto:Opalski.Dan@epa.gov)>; Grandinetti, Cami <[Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov](mailto:Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov)>; Jensen, Amy A. <[jensen.amy@epa.gov](mailto:jensen.amy@epa.gov)>; LaCroix, Matthew <[LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Hough, Palmer <[Hough.Palmer@epa.gov](mailto:Hough.Palmer@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?

In case you have not already seen this. Note Reporter's purported statement from Corps that EPA is in lockstep with the Corps.  
Patty

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**From:** Chu, Rebecca <[Chu.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Chu.Rebecca@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 7:31 AM  
**To:** Baca, Andrew <[Baca.Andrew@epa.gov](mailto:Baca.Andrew@epa.gov)>; Vaughan, Molly <[Vaughan.Molly@epa.gov](mailto:Vaughan.Molly@epa.gov)>; McGrath, Patricia <[mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?

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**From:** Skadowski, Suzanne <[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2020 6:35 AM

**To:** Steiner-Riley, Cara <[Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov](mailto:Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov)>; Johnson, Patrick <[johnson.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.patrick@epa.gov)>; Brown, Leah <[Brown.Leah@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Leah@epa.gov)>; Szelag, Matthew <[Szelag.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Szelag.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Chu, Rebecca <[Chu.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Chu.Rebecca@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?

Just FYI

**From:** Liz Ruskin <[lruskin@alaskapublic.org](mailto:lruskin@alaskapublic.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:57 PM

**To:** Skadowski, Suzanne <[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?

Thanks for trying. Did you see what the president said today? Can you tell me anything about this "briefing" he references? On- or off- **record**?



On Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 2:49 PM Skadowski, Suzanne <[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Liz –

I sent your inquiry to our HQ office, here's what I got:

For questions on this use:

In accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality's (CEQ)'s regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA publishes a weekly Notice of Availability in the Federal Register of Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) to initiate the official start of the public comment or review periods as required under NEPA. On July 24, 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Final EIS for the Pebble Mine was published in EPA's weekly notice to initiate the Final EIS public review period. **Questions about the Final EIS should be directed to USACE.**

**From:** Liz Ruskin <[lruskin@alaskapublic.org](mailto:lruskin@alaskapublic.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 5, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** Skadowski, Suzanne <[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?

**From:** Liz Ruskin <[lruskin@alaskapublic.org](mailto:lruskin@alaskapublic.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:30 PM  
**To:** Skadowski, Suzanne <[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Possible to hear from Chris Hladick?

Hello! I wonder if a phone interview is possible. I'm hoping to gauge his initial take on the FEIS so far.

ACOE has asserted that EPA is in lockstep with the Corps. Is that right? Does he feel the FEIS addresses all the concerns raised in the draft?

Pebble is saying "Eight federal agencies ... one final conclusion" that the impacts to salmon are not expected to be measurable. Is that EPA's conclusion?

Thanks in advance,

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**Liz Ruskin**

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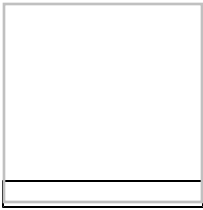
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